

CHINA



MAIL.

Established February, 1845,

With which is incorporated The "Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List." Published every Evening.

VOL. XXXV. No. 4949. 號九十月五年九十七百八千一英

HONGKONG, MONDAY, MAY 19, 1879.

日九十月三閏年卯己

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 8, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, George Street & Co., 30, Cornhill, Gordon & Gotoh, Ludgate Circus, E. C. Bates, Henry & Co., 4, Old Jewry, E. C. Samuel Dragoon & Co., 160 & 164, Leadenhall Street.

PARIS AND EUROPE.—LEON DE ROSEY, 19, Rue Monsieur, Paris.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 138, Nassau Street.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOODE, Melbourne and Sydney.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—BROWN & BLACK, San Francisco.

SINGAPORE AND STRAITS.—SAYLE & CO., Square, Singapore. C. HEINZEN & CO., Manila.

CHINA.—Macao, MESSRS A. A. DE MELLO & CO., SWATOW, CAMPBELL & CO., AMoy, WILSON, NICHOLS & CO., FOOCHEW, HEDGE & CO., Shanghai, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & WALLACE, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

BANKS.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, 5,000,000 Dollars. RESERVE FUND, 1,800,000 Dollars.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—W. H. FORBES, Esq. Deputy Chairman—Hon. W. KESWICK. E. R. BELLIKOS, Esq. WILHELM REINHOLD, Esq. H. L. DALBYMPLE, Esq. F. D. SASSOON, Esq. H. HOPFUS, Esq. W. S. YOUNG, Esq. A. MCIVER, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.

Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER.

Shanghai, EWEN CAMERON, Esq. LONDON BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

For Fixed Deposits:

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent. "
" 12 " 5 per cent. "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts, granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.

Offices of the Corporation,

No. 1, Queen's Road East.

Hongkong, February 15, 1879.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON FIXED DEPOSITS.

At 3 months' notice 3% per Annum.

" 6 " 4 per cent. "

" 12 " 5 per cent. "

On Current Accounts, at Rates which can be ascertained at their Office.

D. A. J. CROMBIE,

Acting Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation,

Hongkong, November 23, 1878.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

CAPITAL, £800,000. RESERVE FUND, £150,000.

Bankers,

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE CITY BANK.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

THE BANK'S BRANCH in Hongkong grants Drafts on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe and the East; buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, and conducts all kinds of Banking and Exchange Business.

RATES OF INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

On CURRENT ACCOUNTS, 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS.

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

" 6 " 4 per cent. "

" 12 " 5 per cent. "

Entertainment.

GARRISON & THEATRE.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY,

20th and 21st MAY, 1879.

SONGS, CLOG DANCE, FLUTE DUET, COMIC SONGS, AND THE NEGRO FAROE, entitled

BOX AND COX.

To conclude with

THE NEGRO DANCE SKIDADDLE.

Doors Open at.....8.30 p.m.

To Commence at.....9.00

ADMISSION.

First Seats.....One Dollar.

Second do.....50 Cents.

Third do.....25 "

PUNKAHS.

" GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

Hongkong, May 17, 1879.

my22

ACTIONS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction on an early DATE, unless disposed of privately, of which due Notice will be given.

Portions of INLAND LOT NO. 105, adapted for the erection of FIVE CHINESE HOUSES on COCHRANE STREET, corner of Gage Street, and FIVE HOUSES on Gage Street, corner of Gutzlaff

Plans may be seen, and all particulars obtained at the Office of

SHARP & DANBY,

No. 6, Queen's Road,

lately Messrs E. D. SASSOON & Co.

Hongkong, May 17, 1879.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, shortly, on a day to be hereafter named, unless previously disposed of by private contract.

THE HONGKONG DISTILLERY,

Situate at East Point, Hongkong, now in Complete Working Order, and Capable of Distilling upwards of 2,000 Gallons daily. The Property is of a most valuable nature, comprising THREE PIECES OF GROUND close to the water, viz.: Inland Lots Nos. 749, 781 and 782, with the Substantially Built DWELLING-HOUSE and BUSINESS-PREMISES erected specially for the purpose only a few years since, together with the MACHINERY, ENGINES, SHILLS, VATS, STOCK, and TRADE FURNITURE and FITTINGS.

For further Particulars, apply to

Messrs SHARP, TOLLER, and

JOHNSON,

Solicitors, Supreme Court House,

Hongkong.

Hongkong, March 5, 1879.

INTIMATIONS.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR

1878.

SHAREHOLDERS

in the above Office

are requested to furnish the Under-

signed with a LIST of THEIR CONTRIBU-

TIONS for the Year ending 31st December,

1878; in order that the Distribution of the

PROFITS Reserved for CONTRIBUTORs

may be arranged. Returns not rendered

prior to the 30th JUNE next will be Ad-

justed by the OFFICE and no Claims or

Alterations will be subsequently admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1879.

INTIMATIONS.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE

NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS

AND BOOKS.

48, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, April 21, 1879.

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Intimations.

YANGTSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

SEALED TENDERS for the Extension of BOILER SHED, REPAIRS to ROOF, PILLARS, &c., at H.M. NAVAL YARD, will be Received by the Undersigned on or before TUESDAY, the 27th Instant, at Noon.

Plan and Specification can be seen on application at the NAVAL STOREKEEPER'S OFFICE.

JOHN BREMNER,
Naval Storekeeper.
H. M.'s Naval Yard,
Hongkong, 18th May, 1879.

my27

PHOTOGRAPHY.

O. P. O. B. E. L. B. A. U. M. bega to announce to the Community of Hongkong that he has taken over the BUSINESS of MR. H. SCHUREN—well known in Hongkong—and is prepared to take PHOTOGRAPHS daily from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. Having previously been employed by MITSCHNER, and had long experience in some of the most Celebrated Studios in EUROPE, he will take any WORK in PHOTOGRAPHY, and is able to guarantee satisfaction to all who favour him with their Patronage. Photographs enlarged to life-size and finished in Artistic Style. Any Pictures not meeting with the approval of Patrons will not be charged for.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO,
Wyncham Street.

Hongkong, April 21, 1879.

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YANGTSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Directors have declared an EXTRA DIVIDEND of FIVE PER CENT. on Shareholders Capital, payable at the Office of the Secretaries, on the 28th Instant, to SHAREHOLDERS of Record on the 21st Instant.

MEYER & CO.,
Proprietors.

Hongkong, November 20, 1878.

my29

NOTICE.

M. R. EDWARD BURNIE will Conduct my BUSINESS of MARINE SURVEYOR during my temporary absence from the Colony.

R. H. CAIRNS,
Hongkong, May 6th, 1879.

my26

NOTICE.

F. R. EASTLACKE will receive his PATIENTS at his new DENTAL ROOMS; NO. 50, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, over the MEDICAL HALL

Intimations.

NEWS FOR HOME.

The Overland China Mail.
(The oldest Overland Paper in China.)

PUBLISHED AT THE "CHINA MAIL" OFFICE
IN TIME FOR THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Containing from 72 to 84 columns of closely
printed matter.

THIS Mail Summary is compiled from the Daily China Mail, is published twice a month on the morning of the English Mail's departure, and is a record of each fortnight's current history of events in China and Japan, contributed in original reports and collated from the journals published at the various ports in those Countries.

It contains Shipping news from Shanghai, Hongkong, Canton, &c., and a complete Commercial Summary.

Subscription, 50 cents per Copy (postage paid 66 cents). \$12 per annum (postage paid \$13.50).

Orders should be sent to GEO. MURRAY BAIN, China Mail Office, 2, Wyndham Street, not later than the evening before the departure of the English Mail Steamer.

Terms of Advertising, same as in Daily China Mail.

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR AMOY.

The Steamship "ESMERALDA," Capt. CULLEN, shortly due, will have quick despatch for the above Port.

For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co.

Hongkong, May 19, 1879.

FOR NEW YORK.

The A 1 American Ship "HATTIE E. TAFLER," TAFLEY, Master.

For Freight, apply to VOGEL & Co.

Hongkong, May 19, 1879.

Not Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor Owners will be Responsible for any Debt contracted by the Officers or Crew of the following Vessels, during their stay in Hongkong Harbour:

GOLDEN FLEET, British barque, Capt. James Wiltshead.—Vogel & Co.

ONEIDA, British ship, Captain S. Olyma.—Gibb, Livingston & Co.

ALEXA, British barque, Captain George Robb.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

ANNIE W. WESTON, American barque, Captain H. C. Winsor.—Order.

VESTIGIUS, American barque, Captain F. W. Call.—Order.

ARGYLL, British steamer, Captain D. Scott.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

BEETHOVEN, German barque, Captain Hebe—Melchers & Co.

KILLARNEY, British steamer, Captain Henry O'Neill—Gibb, Livingston & Co.

ALICE C. DICKERMAN, American 3-m. schooner, Captain Wm. J. Bugant.—Order.

EXCELSIOR, American barque, Capt. D. B. Eddy.—Captain.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

May 17, Diamante, British steamer, 514, E. Thebaud, Amoy May 16, General.—RUSSELL & Co.

May 17, Philippine, British barque, 300, J. H. Southwood, Newchwang April 23, Beaum.—WISLER & Co.

May 18, Elizabeth, German barque, 447, L. Olsen, Newchwang April 29, Beaum.—WISLER & Co.

May 19, Galley of Lorne, British steamer, 1839, John L. Dryden, Nagasaki May 18, 8 p.m., General.—GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

May 19, Sorogon, Spanish steamer, 240, R. Lopez, Manila May 18, General.—VOGEL & Co.

May 19, Rajanattianhuas, British str., 938, Hopkins, Bangkok May 11, General.—YUEN FAI HONO.

May 19, Jeddah, British steamer, 994, J. L. Clark, Penang May 9, and Singapore 12, General.—BUN HIN CHAN.

May 19, Salvadora, Spanish steamer, 651, Lariccia, Manila May 18, General.—REMEDIOS & Co.

May 19, Meli, Chinese steamer, 181, R. Mandar, Siphong May 16, and Hoihow 18, General.—C. M. S. N. Co.

May 19, 830 m., British, British steamer, 1700, J. A. Eddell, Sydney April 19, 0.30 p.m., Bowen 27, Townsville 28, Hobart, Thursday Island May 1, 4 p.m., and Singapore 18, 4 p.m., 12 boxes Gold, and 1,147 pks. Merchandise.—GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

May 19, Géniflax, British steamer, 1366, Wilson, London April 9, via ports of call, and Singap. to May 14, General.—JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.

DEPARTURES.

May 18, Bulwong, for Swatow, 2d.

18. Sunaa, for Yokohama.

19. Zambezi, for Shanghai.

19. Conquest, for Hoihow & Haiphong.

19. Richmond, U. S. flag-ship, for Shanghai.

19. Diamante, for Manila.

CLEARED.

Oneida, for San Francisco.

Olkurnam, for San Francisco.

Dale, for Bangkok.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Scorpion, from Manila, Messrs Bernard Flood, and M. Carthy.

Per Britannia, from Bangkok, Miss Digby, and Mr Decoune (French Consul at Bangkok), and 40 Chinese.

Per Judd, from Penang and Singapore, Mrs Johnson and wife, and 50 Chinese.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Brisbane, from Sydney, Mr. Messrs Tin War, Yuk Khae, and 326 Chinese.

Per Diamante, from Amoy, 3 Europeans deck, and 50 Chinese.

Per Mc-I, from Hoihow, &c., 40 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per Tigre, for Yokohama: from Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Macy; from Marilles, Miss Zappe, Messrs Hailey, Banas, Elendecker, and Staats; from Saigon, Messrs Pallet, Morin, Simon, Lemaire, Costet, Troumier, Darcel, Cong, and 15 Marines.

Per Tigre, for Shanghai: from Hongkong, Mrs Bright, Capt. Sair, Messrs Ello, Due de Magliano, G. Grizioli, and W. Favre, and 4 Chinese; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Hetz, Messrs Shaw, Tiefenbacher, Beckmanns, D. M. Henderson, Turner, and Brackenridge; from Port Said, Mrs Rodz; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs Edward Fone.

Per Sunda, for Yokohama: for Hongkong, Mrs Allan, and 2 Infants and 4 Chinese from Southampton, Mr. Ricketts.

Per Zambezi, for Shanghai: from Hongkong, Lieut. E. P. Chapman, Messrs H. A. Penicuad, W. Woodward, and F. Terrible, 69 Chinese, and 2 Boys; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Parkes, 2 children and servant, Messrs H. Dale, and Frazer.

Per Hoihow, for Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Brown; for Tamsui, Mr. Dodd.

Per Diamante, for Manila, Mr. J. Veler, Per Conquest, for Balphong, 8 Chinese; for Hoihow, 20 Chinese.

TO DAY.

THE CONTRACT MAILS.

MAILS BY THE UNITED STATES PACKET.

The United States Mail Packet *Atakze* will be despatched on MONDAY, the 26th instant, with Mails for Japan, San Francisco, and the United States, which will be closed as follows:—

2.15 p.m. Registry of Letters ceases.

2.30 p.m. Post-Office closes, but Letters (except for Non-Union Countries) may be posted on board the Packet with Late Fee of 18 cents extra Postage until the time of departure.

Correspondence for Non-Union West Indies (except the Bahamas and Hayti), Monte Video, Paraguay, and Uruguay can no longer be sent by this route.

Hongkong, May 8, 1879.

my26

MAIL BY THE UNITED STATES PACKET.

The United States Mail Packet *Belgic*, will be despatched on SATURDAY, the 23rd inst., with Mails for Japan, San Francisco, and the United States, which will be closed as follows:—

2.15 p.m. Registry of Letters ceases.

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Correspondence for Non-Union West Indies (except the Bahamas and Hayti), Monte Video, Par

this city, and proposed to visit his father, in Paris, to procure money for that purpose, but that the home office agreed to buy his ticket and pay his expenses to San Francisco, if he would return. This offer he accepted and lost no time in returning, with the intention of disclosing everything connected with his money transactions. It is understood that he has done so, and that his statements are borne out by investigations made by the detectives and the bank. How much money he put in stocks, and where it went, are now known. Hall remains in the new prison, and has not been formally charged with larceny of the bank's money.

With regard to our recent remarks concerning the rottenness of some things in high places in India, we would direct attention to the opinion of the *Madras Mail* with regard to the cooking of the accounts connected with the Afghan war. More than once within our memory, says our contemporary Indian journalists have been taken roundly to task for inculpating that the public accounts had been subjected to a process not very dissimilar to what is called "cooking" with reference to the financial statements of private companies and individuals. And now we have an ex-Lieutenant-Governor deliberately charging Lord Lytton's Government with the most odious cooking of accounts in respect of the Afghan war. He twice stigmatized Mr Stanhope's quiet official statement of facts as "audacious," and went out of his way to sneer at the modern Governor-General as being of inferior calibre to those of former days. Our contemporary agrees "with the member for the Kirkcaldy Burghs that there is far too great a tendency to govern India by means of telegrams and private, or at least semi-official, correspondence. On reference to the Duke of Argyl's monstrous 'pamphlet,' it will be seen that His Grace conducted almost his entire correspondence with Lord Mayo on the subject of the Afghan Policy in an unofficial manner; and, thus, the Blue-Book lately presented to Parliament displayed a lamentable hiatus at the very point where the fullest information was desirable." We might add that both India and the colonies have so often seen fearful and wonderful exposures of what is done in the land we live in and the land we belong to in the way of governmental wiles and tricks and blunders, that many have come to the concluding conclusion that things are just now at that worst state which, according to the old saw, always precedes their "beginning to mend."

FALL OF CHINESE HOUSES. ONE MAN KILLED.

The accident which we briefly noticed in Saturday evening's paper, happily dwindled down, when the real facts became known, to a much smaller catastrophe than it was at first believed had happened. The houses which fell are not situated in Gage Street, but facing Gage Street, at the junction of Cochrane Street, Gage Street and Lyndhurst Terrace. It appears that about 7 o'clock the three houses fell with a loud crash, which could be heard for a considerable distance. Chief Inspector Horspool happened to be close to the spot at the time, and being informed that a number of men were buried in the ruins, gave orders for a party of police to be sent to the spot, and applied to the Superintendent of the Gaol for assistance. Twenty European prisoners were at once sent to the scene under the charge of Mr Cole, head turnkey of the gaol. They were provided with all necessary appliances for clearing away the ruins, and ambulances were brought down for use if required. It was known that some twenty men had been inside the building immediately before the accident occurred, and that some had escaped, but these latter ran away as they usually do on such occasions, so that it was impossible to say how many of the twenty men had escaped. At length it was ascertained that one man was buried, on the Lyndhurst Terrace side, and Mr Cole, with some of the prisoners, at once set to work to extricate the poor fellow. He was close to the door and apparently not much hurt, as the beams of the first floor had kept the debris from crushing him. Before he was properly extricated he was able to speak, and said that he believed he was the only man in the building, the others having all escaped. As soon as his legs were freed a most ludicrous scene occurred. Orders were given to clear the way to the ambulance, the man was lifted from his uncomfortable quarters by rough but kindly hands and he was being conveyed towards the ambulance. He tried hard to free himself from his preservers, who however expostulated with him, endeavouring to reassure him of their well-meant intentions. He was got as far as the ambulance, but here he struggled so fiercely that he was at length let go, and he then rushed away madly, energetically refusing to let them make an invalid of him. Although not a fit subject for an ambulance, nothing could more plainly have shown the dread the ignorant coolie has towards foreign doctors. No doubt he is here smothered with nasty-looking plasters, and has been pinched and scored down the neck and head to his heart's content. As soon as this lucky fellow was released it was reported that another man was buried on the other side, and the prisoners worked away manfully till nearly 10 o'clock, but without seeing any signs of any one being buried there. They were then ordered to desist, as the walls were in a very unsafe state. Yesterday morning they renewed their exertions, and succeeded in finding a man's clothing and pipe, but no body. They continued to work till half past 4 o'clock, when they were relieved by a party of police, and as

8 a.m. to-day the body of a lad of 16 was discovered. It is believed that all the others must have escaped.

We cannot help remarking that it is a crying shame that such accidents should be possible. We have more than once called the attention of the authorities to the matter of Jerry buildings, but they are still being run up in the same flimsy style. The entire row of these four houses was supported merely by thin posts placed in the shop-front. It is patent to the most unprofessional eye that the arch which forms the shop front is wholly useless; there is no key-stone; the bricks are simply thrown together, and the arch has scarcely any curve; how then, may we ask, can it be of the slightest use in supporting the structure? The whole of the weight is thrown on a post about four or five inches in diameter. This defect must have been noticeable in the plans; if there were any plans, which we very much doubt. This, coupled with the bad workmanship, makes one wonder how these houses, formed as they are of mud and brick and green wood, can stand at all. It is the duty of the Government to see that people are at least free from the danger of being crushed to death at any moment, either in the street or in their houses owing to the manner in which plans are passed and rascally contractors stamp their work. House rent is high enough in all conscience to enable proprietors and builders to erect substantial dwellings.

THE INQUEST.

An inquest was held this afternoon on the body of Lai Hing, who was killed by the falling of some houses in Cochrane Street on Saturday last. The jury comprised Messrs T. N. Driscoll, J. A. Blogg and E. F. Fonseca.

Dr Wharry gave evidence as to the cause of death, which, he said, appeared to have resulted from suffocation. The left fore arm was broken, the upper part of the chest crushed, and the neck and left shoulder severely abraded.

Ip A-on, a carpenter, stated that he was working at a block of new houses in Cochrane Street with the deceased, who was 19 years of age and was engaged as cook for the carpenters who were working in the house. At about 7 p.m. of the 17th instant we were spreading the table for overeating meal, in a room in the middle of the ground floor of one of the new houses. I had just sat down to my supper; there were four other men including the deceased who was serving up our meal. Suddenly the wall on the south side of the room fell down. The roof and the first floor all seemed to fall at once. When the beams of the roof and the upper floor fell down, one end of them rested on the wall and one on the ground, and I and others being protected by the beams luckily escaped with but slight injury. The deceased was under the end of the beams which struck the ground. We could not see the deceased. Some of the bricks fell on me, inflicting some slight bruises on my head, left arm, and chest. I got out without assistance. I do not know when the other three men got out. I cannot say what caused the house to fall.

Chun Achi deposition—I am a building contractor and reside at Queen's Road West. I have been a building contractor for over twenty years. I have a contract for building a block of six houses at Cochrane Street. I have 60 or 70 men at work; they have been so employed for the last four months. The deceased has been employed for about one month. The deceased and four others were in one house doing carpenter's work. I visit the buildings every day and left the house on Saturday at 4 o'clock. I was walking in the Queen's Road and heard some people say that some houses had fallen, so immediately ran back to see if they were mine, I found two of my houses had fallen, so at once went to the Police Station and made a report. The Inspector asked me if there was anybody in the house. I went to make enquiries and learnt that all were safe but one. It was too late and too dark to work that night, but the next morning I got some men to work, and they continued to work all day. This morning about 8 o'clock the deceased was found under the debris, quite dead. I was present when the body was recovered, he lay under some of the beams. On Friday I noticed a crack near the foundation of the front side of the party wall of the two centre houses. I ordered the men to pull down the front wall as far as the first floor, and my intention was to pull the whole of the wall down. The landlord called my attention to the flaw in the wall. I ordered the subcontractor to pull it down, but he wanted more money. I said it must come down so engaged some men myself to pull it down. I saw them doing it; they had pulled down, as far as the top of the second floor on Saturday at 6 p.m. I saw it at 4 o'clock; it looked quite safe then; the crack was just the same as when I first noticed it. All the bricks were left off work at 8 o'clock and went home. In all my twenty years experience I never heard of a house falling down as these have done. The landlord visited the houses every day, but found no fault with the work except the crack in the wall. Mr Neate, the Inspector of buildings, visited the work three or four times a day, but he found no fault with the work.

By a Juror—I do not think the Inspector of buildings saw the crack until after the wall was in course of demolition. He then came and spoke about the crack, and I showed him that the men were pulling down the wall.

By Inspector Craddock—When the wall was being pulled down the bricks were placed along each side of the wall on the top floor. There were not many bricks because the window was very large. I thought it was quite safe to put the bricks in that way. There were some of the tiles on the top floor as well.

By Mr Driscoll—it is usual to sublet building contracts. I gave orders for the bricks to be stacked on the top floor in the manner I have described. The sub-contractor and bricklayers employed by him have all run away.

Stephen Thompson, M.A., witness—

I am Inspector of buildings. It is part of my duty to see that buildings are constructed in accordance with the Building Ordinance. To the best of my knowledge the buildings which fell down in Cochrane Street were commenced about three or four months ago. I was last there about last Thursday. I keep no record of the time of my visits. I do not remember seeing anything wrong with them. I passed the top of the street on Saturday, and think I noticed that the wall of one house was being pulled down, as I was on other business at the time I did not take particular notice. I have no regular time for visiting particular buildings. I cannot say if I visit Cochrane Street once a week or not. I have probably visited it twenty or thirty times.

By a Juror—I should think from information I have gathered that the accident was caused by the bricks, &c., taken from the front wall being placed on the upper floor. The bricks and tiles would probably weigh several tons. This was done to save labour. I do not remember speaking to the last witness about the crack. I see a great many people and a great many buildings in the course of the day.

Last witness recalled, states that he is not quite certain the Inspector of Buildings was there on Friday.

Mr Neate said he should like to add that the buildings were in accordance with the Building Ordinance, and in one respect they were more substantial than was required by the Ordinance, the walls being 13 inches thick, while the Ordinance only requires them to be 9 inches.

In reply to a Juror witness said that overweighing floors was a very common mistake in Hongkong and was not uncommon in England. He had known many accidents resulting from this cause. Accidents of this sort were due a great deal to ignorance and a great deal to a desire to save money. Bricks, if left in boats, have to pay demurrage, and as there is no place to store them, they are generally stacked in the buildings.

The Coroner then read a definition of what constituted manslaughter, and asking the jury to consider their verdict, drew their attention to the ignorance of the Chinese. He said they could hardly be expected to have the same knowledge of the subject as Mr Neate, or any person specially trained, but of course the Contractors' experience would go for something.

Mr Neate said that he might mention that the crack in the front wall would not account for the accident as that wall only bore its own weight.

The Jury then retired and after a short absence, returned a verdict of accidental death, adding a rider recommending some steps to be taken to prevent contractors from overweighing floors.

Mr Creagh said he should certainly bring this to the notice of the Government.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WATER!

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

19th May.

Sir,—I wish to draw attention to the fact, that, as usual when the summer comes, the water supply fails utterly. It is strange that in a Colony that boasts of its civilization this should be so. During a period of 7 or 8 days, once only have I been favoured with water; and it is trying to the very weakest man (be it a veritable Job) to walk morning after morning into his bath-room to find only the same couple of inches of water. If exchanges were not so frightfully low and business dull, one could find a remedy by ordering a supply of ice every morning, which would be a delightful temperature when needed. But then "ice rates" do not appear in our tax-papers, while "water rates" do. If the water would only come in as regularly as the tax-collector does, I would not grumble. As it is, I consider that the past week, hot as it has been, has been almost unbearable with an

EMPTY BATH-TUB.

Police Intelligence.

(Both Magistrates Sitting.)

Monday, May 19.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Thompson, seaman, U.S.S. Richmond, and Charles Williams, seaman, unemployed, were fined 50 cents each for being drunk and incapable.

Michael Keane, seaman, lately belonging to the U.S.S. Ranger, was fined \$1 for a similar offence.

STRAGGLER.

Juan Billio, seaman Spanish schooner Nuevo Constante, was ordered to be sent on board his ship as a straggler.

"JACK ASHORE."

Thomas Henry Duggan, and Francis Andrew Dougherty, seamen U.S.S. Richmond, were charged with creating a disturbance in the public streets, knocking over a hawker's basket, and destroying property valued at 6 cents, and likewise with assaulting the police. It appears the first defendant was drunk, and kicked over the basket accidentally; a crowd collected, and the second defendant tried to smooth matters over, but the first defendant ran away, was pursued, jumped into the water, and was rescued with difficulty. Mr Plunkett fined the first defendant \$2, one dollar of which to go to the hawker as amends, and the second defendant was discharged.

CHINESE DELICACIES.

Mal U Tai, a hawker, was charged with defrauding one Kam Aiyh, a broker, by selling him a quantity of a mixture of vermicelli alleged to be birds' nests.

Mr Li Hong Mi, third class, and interpreter at the Police Court, gave some interesting particulars regarding this business. He said: I have examined the article in Court; it very closely resembles birds' nest; it is not birds' nest, but vermicelli. I have seen some of it before, and have known a pretty good judge of the genuine article deceived by the same kind of stuff. I have dealt in birds' nests for five or six years. The birds' nests are worth \$85 a catty; that in Court would be about half a catty. A great many persons were imposed on in Peking some years ago by spurious goods of the same sort. That in the bag of the same is counterfeit, and is exactly the same as the composition of vermicelli produced by the complainant.

P.C. 180 proved arresting the defendant, who had the bag of spurious birds' nest in Court in his possession. He was pointed out by the complainant as the man who sold him the birds' nests.

Defendant, who denied all knowledge of either the complainant or the birds' nests,

was fined \$20, with the alternative of four weeks' hard labour, and was further ordered to pay \$3.50 amends to the complainant, or be further imprisoned for fourteen days with hard labour. On his release from gaol he is to enter into his personal recognizance in \$100 to be of good behaviour for twelve months.

China.

(N. C. D. News.)

H. M. despatch vessel *Vigilant* arrived at Shanghai Tuesday afternoon. Vice-Admiral Coote, C.B. was on board.—The flag-ship *Iron Duke* remained at Woosung, but was afterwards brought too far up the Hwang-poo, and grounded on the tail of Gough's Island, where she remained so long that it was thought serious consequences would ensue. By dint of unceasing effort, however, and the aid of several American and English gunboats, she was eventually floated, and is now at a safe anchorage.

The Chinese, Mataumoto, *moman* of the race-course, who some short time back was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude for smoking and selling opium, was liberated on the 30th ultimo on payment of yen 28.50 in lieu of completing his term of punishment.

king was not among them as, owing to indisposition, he applied for and obtained leave to remain eighty days longer in Loo Choo. The visitors—for so no doubt they may be called, though as a matter of fact they are and will be under official surveillance—were received by several officers of the Imperial household department, and treated with every mark of respect. They remained in Yokohama last night and proceeded to Tokio today.

We learn from the Japanese papers that the Government intend to connect Loo Choo with Japan by means of a telegraphable theme, to Kagoshima, and that a survey will shortly be commenced by order of the Kobusho.

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punishment.

Manila.

(Translated from our Manila Exchanges.)

The newly-appointed British Consul for Manila arrived here by the *Esmeralda* on 18th inst., and was conveyed on shore in the steam-launch *Ella*, where he was received by some members of the firm of Smith Bell & Co.

We learn with regret that the St. Nicolas Lighthouse will not be lighted up until next August, owing to the non-completion of some details in its construction, which in our opinion are immaterial.

The *Valiente* and not the *Marques del Duero*, according to our information, is the vessel which will convey our Plenipotentiary, Sr. Ordóñez, to the Court of Annam for the negotiation of a treaty. The vessel will be despatched to meet Sr. Ordóñez on the news of his arrival at Singapore or Saigon being received here, and from thence to the field of his labour, Sr. Ordóñez will, it is said, come to Manila after the conclusion of his mission, and on the way to Madrid will visit Hongkong, Japan, and thence to United States and home.

It is now known, the proprietors of the coal mines of Compostela (Cebu) are bound to supply the Philippine naval station with coal that may be required for the use of the service at the low price of \$6 per ton. As Cardiff coal was being paid for from \$11 to \$13 per ton, the advantage of the offer of the mine proprietors is evident. The proprietors now make a new proposition which is that if the Government could construct a tramway to run from the mine to the praya, at its own expense, they would be able to supply the combustible even at \$4 per ton. This proposition is now under consideration of the Government.

The Spanish brig *Perla del Oceano*, Capt. Aldecoa, left Manila for Hongkong with sapeen wood, on 13th inst.

It is reported from Iloilo that the port for Liverpool, and about three hours after she left was obliged to put back owing to the ship's steward having set fire to the spare sails and provisions in the stores, but was discovered in time by the crew, who, with great difficulty succeeded in extinguishing it. H. B. M.'s Vice-Consul, with a zeal worthy of praise, has ordered the culprit to be imprisoned, and taken other measures for his punishment.

COMMERCIAL.

May 19.

Up to the receipt of the month's supply the rates for Bengal opium kept pretty steady, but subsequently a weaker tone prevailed. The business of the fortnight has been notwithstanding on a very fair scale, when it is borne in mind that the value of the drug will be much enhanced in its transit into the interior by the increased duty. As below noted, it will be seen that the stock of Patna is not large in first hands for the season, but in view of the increased duty the native dealers appear to act as circumlocution call for. The present quotations are \$550 to \$552 for Patna, and \$617 to \$620 for Benares.

To the last noticed receipts have to be added 3,523 chests, making the total for the month, so far, 3,563 chests, against 2,791 to the corresponding date last year. During the fortnight some 1,050 chests have been taken by the local consumers, against 1,100 chests at the corresponding period last year. This, with the exportations, leaves the available supply computed at 1,800 chests, against 2,900 chests same time last year. Of this last quantity 600 chests were Benares, of which kind the present stock consists of a similar quantity.

Messrs HEINEMANN & Co.'s Freight Circular for the Mall of Tuesday, 20th May, says:—

Business in the Freight market has been on a moderate scale during the past fortnight; there exists a better demand for homeward charters, and freights have ruled slightly firmer, but coastwise the market continues dull and languid.

Coastwise, little has been done from this port; two settlements are reported for the Philippines, and

To Let.

TO LET.

OFFICES, GODOWNS, and
GOODS STORED.
Apply to
PUSTAU & Co.,
Praya, Pottinger Street,
Hongkong, April 30, 1879. my80

TO LET.

In the Houses on MARINE LOT 65, formerly known as the Blue Houses, situated on Praya East—

FIRST FLOORS of Nos. 2, 3 and 4, Praya East, with immediate possession.

As also,

FIRST CLASS GRANITE GODOWNS, attached to Blue Houses at Wanchai, MARINE LOT 65, and BASEMENT No. 3.

Also,

A SPACIOUS TIMBER YARD, close to the Wanhai Pier. Timber received on Storage or the Yard Rented.

For further particulars, apply to
MEYER & Co.,
Hongkong, March 4, 1879. my1

TO LET.

TWO HOUSES, Nos. 29 and 31, HOLLYWOOD ROAD.

Apply to

J. J. DOS REMEDIOS & Co.,
Hongkong, May 9, 1879. my9

TO LET—AT WANCHAI.

FIRE STOOL ALASAS
GODOWNS.
Goods of every description Landed and Stored.

For terms, apply to

LANDSTEIN & Co.,
Hongkong, April 4, 1879. my4

TO LET.

MARINE-HOUSE—WEST.

SECOND FLOOR and a GODOWN,
RENT \$60 & \$50 per Month respectively.
Apply to
E. R. BELLIOS.

Hongkong, May 17, 1879.

TO LET—FURNISHED.

THE CLIFFS, near Mount Gough, containing SIX LARGE ROOMS, &c., presently occupied by Dr. ADAMS.

Apply to

Mr. J. D. HUMPHREYS,
Hongkong Dispensary.

Hongkong, May 8, 1879.

TO LET.

HOUSE NO. 9, ZETLAND STREET,
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Hongkong, April 29, 1879.

TO LET.

OFFICES in CLUB CHAMBERS,
Apply to
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
Hongkong, April 8, 1879.

TO LET.

PORTION of a HOUSE, very suitable for OFFICES and DWELLING, also for a STORE, Queen's Road Central, Possession 1st March next.
Apply to
LANDSTEIN & Co.,
Hongkong, February 4, 1879.

Mails.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES,
PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANCAISE.STEAM FOR
BAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
POINT DE GALLE,
ADEN, SUEZ, MMAILIA, PORT
SAID, NAPLES, AND
MARSEILLES;

ALSO,

PONDICHERRY, MADRAS, CALOUTTA
AND ALL INDIAN PORTS.

Insurances.

IN TUESDAY, the 27th of May, 1879,
the company's S. S.,
IRAOUDDY, Commandant GAUVAIN,
with MAILED PASSENGERS, SPECIE,
and CARGO, will leave this Port for the above places.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for London as well as for Marseilles, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted until noon.

Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m. Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m. on the 26th of May, 1879. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the agent's Office.)

Contents and value of Packages are required.

For further particulars, apply at the Company's Office.

G. de CHAMPEAUX,

Agent, Royal Insurance Company.

Hongkong, May 14, 1879. my7

Mails.

STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, PENANG, POINT DE
GALLE, ADEN, SUEZ, MALTA,
BRINDISI, ANCONA, VENICE, MEDI-
TERNEAN PORTS, SOUTH-
AMPTON, AND LONDON;
VIA BOMBAY.ALSO
BOMBAY, MADRAS, AND CALOUTTA.THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamship
GWALIOR, Captain J. C. BABO, will
leave this on TUESDAY, the 20th May, at
Noon.Tea and General Cargo for London will
be conveyed to Bombay without tranship-
ment, arriving one week later than by the
direct route. Silk and Valuables will be
transferred to the "Calcutta" steamer at
Galle.For further Particulars, apply to
A. MOLVER, Superintendent.

Hongkong, May 7, 1879. my20

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP
COMPANY.THROUGH to NEW YORK, VIA
OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING
AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.

NO CHARGE FOR POLICY FEES.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, November 1, 1871.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER
of

His Majesty King George The First,

A. D. 1701.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Corporation are
prepared to grant Insurances as follows:

Marine Department.

Policies at current rates payable either
here, in London or at the principal Ports of

India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at
current rates. A discount of 20% allowed.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding
£5,000 at reduced rates.HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Hongkong, July 25, 1872.NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.Incorporated by Royal Charter and
Special Acts of Parliament.

ESTABLISHED 1800.

CAPITAL £2,000,000.

THE Undersigned, AGENTS at Hongkong
for the above Company, are prepared to
grant Policies against FIRE, to the
extent of £10,000 on any Building, or
on Merchandise in the same, at the
usual Rates, subject to a discount of 20
per cent.GILMAN & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, July 6, 1875.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED.)

NOTICE.

POLICIES granted at current rates on
Marine Risks to all parts of the World.In accordance with the Company's Articles
of Association, Two Thirds of the Profits
are distributed annually to Contributors
whether Shareholders or not, in proportion
to the net amount of Premium contributed
by each, the remaining third being carried
to Reserve Fund.J. BRADLEE SMITH,
Secretary.

Hongkong, December 9, 1878.

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.

(FIRE AND LIFE.)

CAPITAL—TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant
Policies against the Risk of FIRE on
Buildings or on Goods stored therein, on
Goods on board Vessels and on Goods on
Vessels in Harbour, at the usual Terms
of Conditions.Proposals for Life Assurances will be re-
ceived, and transmitted to the Directors
for their decision.If required, protection will be granted on
first class Lives up to £1000 on a Single
Life.For Rates of Premiums, forms of pro-
posals or any other information, apply toARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,
Agents, Hongkong & Canton.

Hongkong, January 4, 1867.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE
COMPANY OF

MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

Capital of the Company £1,000,000 Sterling
of which is paid up £100,000
Reserve Fund upwards of £120,000
Annual Income £256,000.THE Undersigned have been appointed
Agents for the above Company atHongkong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai,
and Hankow, and are prepared to grant
Insurances at current rates.MEYER & Co.,
Hongkong, February 10, 1879. my1

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned, Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to grant In-
surance at current rates.MELOCHE & Co.,
Agents, Royal Insurance Company.

Hongkong, October 27, 1872.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Hongkong, October 15, 1872.

Insurances.

THE SOOTH ISLAMIC INSUR-
ANCE COMPANY.THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents in Hongkong for the above-
named Company, are prepared to Grant
Policies against FIRE on Buildings and
on Goods to the extent of \$60,000, at the
usual Rates, subject to an immediate Dis-
count of 20 per cent.Attention is invited to a considerable
reduction in Premium for Life Insurance in
China.MEYER & Co.,
Hongkong, August 13, 1878. my1QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.THE Undersigned are prepared to grant
Policies against FIRE to the extent of
\$45,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored
therein, at current local rates, subject to a
Discount of 20% on the Premium.NORTON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, January 1, 1874.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

GENCIES at all the Treaty Ports of
China and Japan, and at Singapore,
Saigon and Penang.Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance
granted at the rates of Premium current at
the above mentioned Ports.

NO CHARGE FOR POLICY FEES.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, November 1, 1871.

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